

Lincoln after Lexington

Although Mary and the children made visits to Lexington after 1850, Lincoln never returned. He served just one term as Congressman, but chose not to stand for reelection, his stand against the Mexican War proving unpopular.

Returning to his law practice in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln ran for Senator in 1858 against Stephen Douglas, prompting the famous series of debates that led to his nomination for President in 1860. His election sparked secession of the Southern states and the American Civil War.

In 1862, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves in the rebelling states. Because Kentucky had not seceded, those slaves were not freed until the 13th Amendment was ratified on December 6, 1865.

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and died on April 15, 1865 – less than a week after the South surrendered and the war ended.